

608-266-7038

2/9/95

FAX To:

DuWayne Jonsrud

Chairman, Natural Resources Committee

Dear Mr. Jonsrud:

I became aware this AM of 1995 Assembly Bill 38. I strongly recommend against this bill. The DNR has the authority to issue permits for the introduction and/or reintroduction of fish, birds and animals into the State. The existing process for permitting requires full public involvement including the public at large and both local and State elected and appointed officials. County government is involved in the process as is Town government. The Conservation Congress is provided full opportunity to participate.

The DNR has the State expertise regarding animal, fish or bird introductions. They also have the both the requirement and the expertise to accomplish appropriate public involvement prior to making a permitting decision.

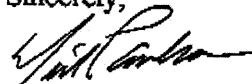
The Conservation Congress has performed a valuable service representing its constituency for many years. However, it can no longer represent the many publics interested in management of the State's natural resources. A group of individuals elected at once a year evening meetings has neither the professional expertise nor do they have the support of many interest groups to represent their individual positions. There are just too many competing groups. A good example during 1994 was the DNR Board action on muskie size limits for the State. The Congress voted for larger size limits but the many others that would have been affected by their imposition prevailed in having the Board not follow the Congress vote.

This is just one example, there are others. For instance this year the DNR used committees of citizens to make recommendations for deer unit boundaries and unit management goal setting rather than do this through the Congress as had been done in the past. Again, so many interests are involved that the Congress cannot represent all of them. They did have a representative on each of these citizen groups.

Giving veto power over animal introductions to these 2 groups would not be appropriate.

The established process has worked very well. There is no need to make any changes. There are other more important things needing the precious time of our legislators. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,



Neil Paulson

P. O. Box 36

Drummond, Wis. 54832

AB 38

- Ref 1.26.95

- 1.23.95 CARD REQ. HEARING

- 2.8.95 HEARING